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**CLASSIFICATION**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 2 April 1951

**SUBJECT** Viet Minh Plan of Attack in Tonkin

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FOR CRITICAL SECURITY REASONS

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**SUPPLEMENT TO**

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THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PREVIOUSLY  
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DISSEMINATION NUMBERED

1. A staff conference of the Viet Minh Army high command was held on 15 March 1951 at Chua Hung Pagoda, near Cau Gia Bay, Thai Nguyen Province. This conference modified the previous Viet Minh plan of attack formulated at the staff conference held on 27 February at Cu Van.\* This plan had called for a major attack in the Sontay area to be called the "Lo Hong Phong Front, Phase 3"; a secondary attack in the Phu Lang Thuong-Bac Giang area was to be carried out by the 174 Regiment of the 316 Brigade, supported by two Regiments of The Montagnards.
  2. At the 15 March conference, the Viet Minh high command decided to open a more limited front than originally planned as soon as possible in order to take advantage of the absence of General de Lattre and before the arrival of French reinforcements. The plan of attack is as follows:
    - a) Principal Front ("Hoang Hoa Tham") in the Bac Ninh (16-04, 21-00) area, using the 303 Brigade and the 209 Regiment of the 312 Brigade, in order to take possession of the rice paddy reservoir in the area to supply Viet Minh troops to the north.
    - b) Secondary Front ("Quang Trung") in the maritime zone from Quang Yen (106-48, 20-36) to Noncay (107-53, 21-32), using the 93 Regiment and other elements of the 316 Brigade, in order to establish land and sea communication routes to China and gain control of the coal mines at Non Gay, Dong Trieu, and Uong Bi. The Viet Minh plans to work the mines if it is possible to hold them, or otherwise to destroy them.
    - c) False maneuvers in the Vinh Yen-Thuc Yen area, using units of the 303 and 316 Brigades, to divert French forces from the principal attack.
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Decisions reached at this conference were reported in

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